

Islam: The Fastest Growing Religion in America

-New York Times, USA Today, CNN, ABC News

"Because of that, We decreed upon the children of Israel that whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption in the land– it is as if he had slain mankind entirely. And whoever saves one– it is as if he had saved mankind entirely."
[Quran 5:32]

ISLAM = TERRORISM

It is intellectually inconceivable that Islam, the religion that ended Europe's Dark Age and spurred her Renaissance, would ever condone terrorism.

"History makes it clear however, that the legend of fanatical Muslims sweeping through the world and forcing Islam at the point of the sword upon conquered races is one of the most fantastically absurd myths that historians have ever repeated." [De Lacy O'Leary, Islam At The Crossroads, London, 1923, p. 8.]

It is quite clear that the actions of criminals are not representative of a religion nor is that religion to be held accountable.

The bombing at Oklahoma City by Timothy McVeigh and the killings that occurred at Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron by Dr. Baruch Goldstein clearly contradict the teachings of Christianity and Judaism, respectively. To wrongfully associate religions with terrorism is in itself an act of terrorism, since it only incites hate and violence.

The association of Islam with terrorism and the hate crimes committed against innocent American muslims deserve the highest form of condemnation.

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Why?

Allah, Almighty God, said: *"O mankind, an example is presented, so listen to it. Indeed, those you invoke besides Allah will never create a fly, even if they gathered together for that purpose. And if the fly should steal from them a thing, they could not recover it from it. Weak are the pursuer and pursued."* [Quran 22:73]

This verse demonstrates the limited humble capabilities of man. It only exhibits the great dependency we have for our survival. We are a minute form of existence in our planet, which is only a small part of the solar system, which is only a small part of the milky way galaxy, which is only a small part of the virgo super cluster, which is only a small part of the cosmic horizon that we know. And for a surety, we know that the universe does not end there.

Our dependency makes us realize that there must be One who is Eternal and not dependent on anything– otherwise logically nothing would ever exist.

This Eternal Being, Power, Almighty Creator is therefore the only One who is worthy and deserving of all of our recognition, acknowledgement, praise, and worship.

Now, the manner of this worship should only be in a way that is pleasing to the Creator.

He alone has the Divine right to affirm or negate any manner of worship. It can not be subjected to the worshipper's whims and wishful thinking, otherwise that would only necessitate the acceptance of contradictory variations.

The manner of worship has been prescribed by the Owner of the universe through His Messengers and Prophets, who have been given authority by Him to speak on His behalf:

"Say, ' We have believed in Allah and what has been revealed to us and what has been revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the Descendants and what was given to Moses and Jesus and what was given to the Prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are Muslims (those who submitted and surrendered to Allah-God Almighty) to Him. ' " [Quran 2:136]

The last and final Messenger was the Prophet Muhammad who came over fourteen hundred years ago with the final revelation of the Creator for mankind– the Quran.

It is this unique manner of worship, prescribed in Islam, with its serenity, tranquility, and monotheistic nature, that has caught the hearts of many and has made Islam the fastest growing religion in America and Europe.



Worship In Islam

"And your Lord has decreed that you not worship except Him, and to parents, good treatment." [Quran 17:23]

"And who is better in religion than one who submits himself to Allah while being a doer of good and follows the religion of Abraham, inclining towards truth? And Allah took Abraham as an intimate friend." [Quran 4:125]

Despite the existence of stereotypes, bias, and misinformation about Islam, the worship of Allah (God Almighty) in Islam has attracted many, such that it is the fastest growing religion in the world today. What is its concept of worship?

Islam ordains the worship of Allah (God Almighty) without any polytheistic practices. None is to be worshipped or is deserving of any amount of worship except Him.

Now, worship in Islam is not just rituals that are practiced on a particular day only. The definition of worship in Islam is *any act or saying that is pleasing to Allah (God Almighty) and what is pleasing to Him is only known by the latest sent revelation*. Under this definition, a smile is regarded as worship and charity.

Many non-muslims' misunderstanding about Islam stems from their secular definition of worship. As we can see, worship in Islam is comprehensive and a way of life. Therefore, a muslim woman covering, a muslim praying, a muslim seeking knowledge are all considered acts of worship because they are pleasing to Allah (God Almighty).

There are no popes, priests, saints or intermediaries between a man and his Lord in Islam. Every muslim enjoys a direct relationship with Allah (God Almighty) and worships Him directly.

In Islam, there is only one Divine that exists. Allah (God Almighty) is unique; there is none like or equal unto Him. This necessitates that He has no father or mother or son. There are no family of gods. Ascribing a mother or son to God would only bring about multiple divinities, and that would be polytheism– the greatest sin of all.

Our purpose in this life is to worship only Allah (God Almighty). We are accountable for what we do in this life; will we worship Him? Will we follow His latest sent revelation– the Quran? We must bear in mind that every choice and decision is subject to liability and responsibility on the Day of Judgment. Rejecting Allah's (God Almighty) latest sent revelation is tantamount to rejecting Him.

Minimally, you owe it to yourself to investigate Islam *first hand*. Pick up a copy of the Quran and read it for yourself.



Covering (Hijab) Is Freedom

"O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women."
[Quran 4:1]

The choice to modestly cover is an expression of freedom. It is freedom from the shackles of satan and his promotion of lewdness, disrespect, use, and abuse of women to the servitude and surrender to Allah (God Almighty) and His Commandments.

Indeed, in our times the woman has become the object of use and abuse. The very use of woman and her body for marketing and finance is a degradation. Even more degrading is the coercion of women to accept these standards and to abide by them so they could be accepted and have recognition in society. In Islam, a woman is not identified based upon her physical appearance.

It is interesting to point out that covering is recognized by other religions as an act of piety and modesty. The covering of nuns is not considered an act of oppression but rather an act of morality. The orthodox jewish women, in accordance to their scriptures, cover as well.

This is the commandment from Allah (Almighty God) for the respect, elevation, and protection of woman. It is freedom for the women not to be subject to the dress code dictated by immoral men for their gratification.

Such moral conduct would no doubt decrease the horrifying statistic in America, that every two minutes a woman is raped.

Islam has instructed guidelines for both the male and female and has given rules of engagement between the genders that preserve respect and promote security.

Islam, over fourteen hundred years ago, has given the woman rights that only have been granted by many civilizations during the twentieth century.

Thus, it should be of no surprise that the majority of Americans who convert to Islam are in fact women.

"And their Lord responded to them, 'Never will I allow to be lost the work of (any) worker among you, whether male or female; you are of one another.' "
[Quran 3:195]

"And whoever does righteous deeds, whether male or female, while being a believer– those will enter paradise and will not be wronged, (even as much as) the speck on a date seed."
[Quran 4:124]